

Appl. S.N. 10/801,888
Amdt. dated June 2, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of April 4, 2006
Docket No. GP-304637-OST-ALS

8

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments to the application is requested on the grounds that the claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. The claims more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. No new issues have been added which would require further consideration and/or search, nor has any new matter been added. The claims, as presented, are believed to avoid the rejections applied in the Final Office Action for reasons set forth more fully below.

The Final Office Action of April 4, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed. It is submitted that, by this Amendment, all bases of rejection and objection are traversed and overcome. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 24-29, 31, 33-38, 40 and 42 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 24-29, 33-38, and 42 are in a condition suitable for allowance. Any amendments to these claims have been made to correct minor typographical and/or grammatical errors.

Claims 30 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soliman (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,249), and further in view of Jones (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0069312).

Applicants have cancelled claims 30 and 39. As such, it is submitted that the rejection of such claims is moot.

Claims 31, 32, 40 and 41 stand objected to as being dependant upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicates that claims 31, 32, 40 and 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 31 and 40 have been rewritten to include such limitations, and to recite subject matter previously set forth in claims 32 and 41, respectively. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 31 and 40 are now in a condition suitable for allowance.

In summary, claims 24-29, 31, 33-38, 40 and 42 remain in the application. It is submitted that, through this Amendment, Applicants' invention as set forth in these claims is now in a condition suitable for allowance.

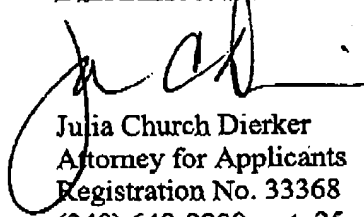
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9

Further and favorable consideration is requested. If the Examiner believes it would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, he is cordially invited to contact Applicants' Attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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